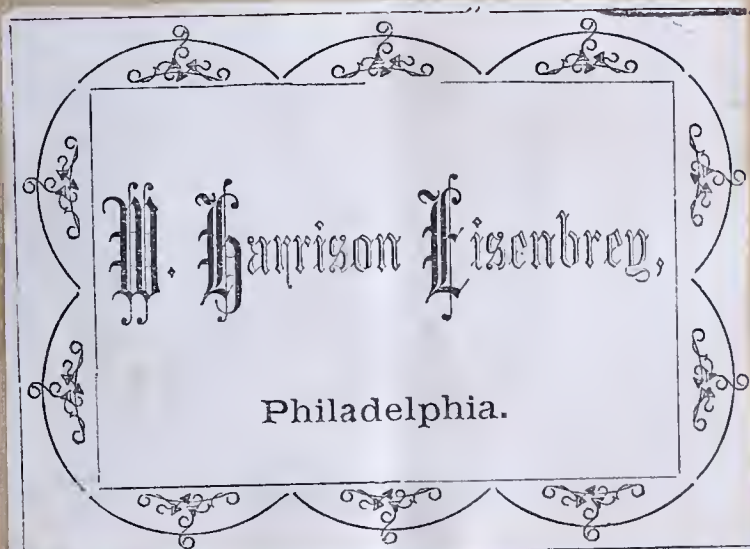


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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
UNION LEAGUE,
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

DECEMBER 14th, 1868.



HENRY B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
Nos. 1102 AND 1104 SANSON STREET.
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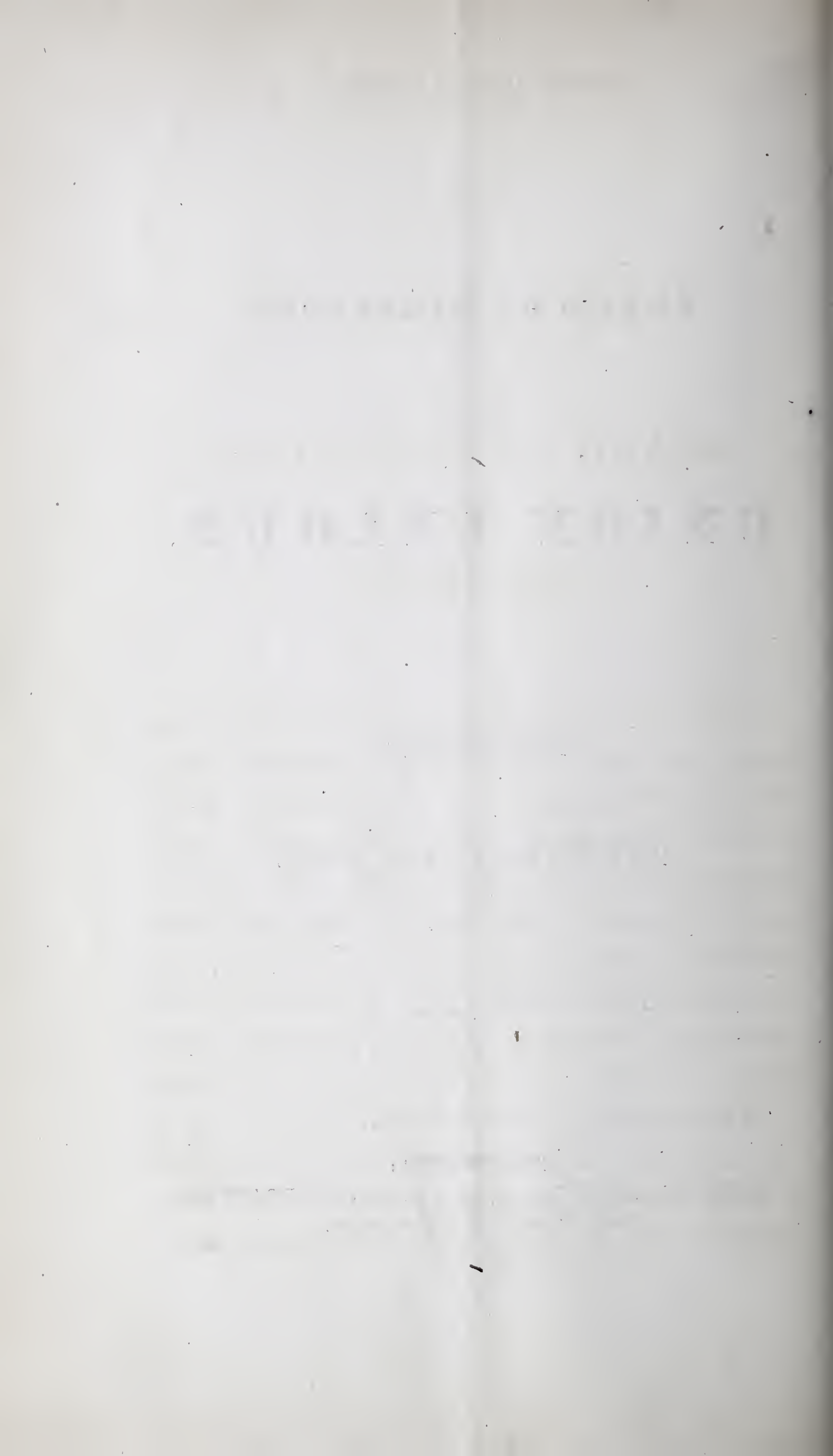
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ON this, the sixth annual meeting of the Union League, our members may justly congratulate themselves on what now appears to be the successful issue of our patriotic mission. The greater objects of our association have all been accomplished. The military power of the rebellion has shown no sign of life, however feeble, since it fell beneath the blows which our great captain dealt it between the Wilderness and the Appomattox. Slavery has been totally abolished; the freedman has been converted into a citizen; and with all the disadvantages of his new position, and the perverse opposition of his former masters, he is rapidly acquiring knowledge, intelligence, wealth, and the difficult art of self-government. Indeed, he appears better

able to do without his master than his master is able to do without him; for almost all the industry which the South has developed since the rebellion, seems to be confined to the negro race, in its struggle from abject poverty towards self-support and independence. The Union has been thoroughly restored, and its power has been shown over every part of the South, not only by the re-admission of those States which have wisely accepted the Reconstruction Laws, but by the stern hand with which it holds aloof those conquered territories that reject these mild enactments. It was not to be supposed that, on the cessation of hostilities, the South would at once settle into peace, and resume its old relations with the Union, as though the bond had never been severed. The wicked authors of the rebellion had evoked passions which nothing but the slow process of time could allay. In consequence, throughout the South, there have been local turbulence, local riots and bloodshed, and a general indisposition to submit to the restraints of law. These are the natural results of passing from a state of war to one of peace, and to the disbanding of a large army of unemployed and needy men, whose military schooling had certainly taught them no reverence for the necessary compromises of civil life. It has been the wonder of Europe that the vast army of the North dropped its weapons with so eager an alacrity, and disappeared amidst our citizens as the waves sink into the level waters after the tempest is

overblown. With us the quiet disarming of our people excited no surprise; and we smiled at the adverse predictions at the time that they were ignorantly uttered. Notwithstanding the scenes of violence which here and there disfigure the South, no calm observer can fail to see that the general tendency of all things, even in the wildest and most lawless parts of that war-stricken land, is towards reorganization, a revival of mechanical and agricultural industry, and that tranquility and respect for law which these blessings inevitably bring in their train. To labor in some way for existence is the common condition of life to the mass of Americans. They cannot live on riots, however bloody, midnight assassinations, however cowardly, or on any organized violence that unhinges the frame of society, and makes profitable industry impossible. The actors in these deeds must starve at their employment; and there is no sterner monitor of peace than approaching want. Let us hope that the idle and mischievous spirits of the South will learn wisdom of their own shrewd experience, before the armed law, which will shortly be extended over them and honestly enforced, shall teach them their duties in an irresistible manner. Who can doubt, from the hints dropped in the Commanding General's late Report, that during the term of that supreme office which he is about to assume, the condition of affairs will be greatly ameliorated in the South; that a security, hitherto unknown, will be established for every class of its citizens; that

all reasonable moral and political ideas may there be publicly expressed without fear of persecution ; and that, with or without the consent of the late slaveholders, the whole land will be made prosperous, peaceful and happy.

On the elevation of General Grant to the highest station in the Republic, by a majority so overwhelming as to remind us of the completeness of his former triumphs in the field, we must look with peculiar satisfaction. Ours was the first public body that nominated General Grant for the office to which he has been elected. We adhered to him with fidelity when the claims of other candidates of worth were pressed upon our consideration. We sustained his canvass with unabated zeal, and with all the force of our various resources, until his complete victory was assured. The vast popular majority by which General Grant was declared to be the choice of the nation for President, should be a source of pride to every American, proving as it does that in our day, and as we trust it will be hereafter, we may rely with full faith upon the fitness of our people for self-government, and have no fear of the issue when they are called upon to choose at the polls between honesty and dishonesty, truth and treachery, right and wrong. To say, as is said by our adversaries, that General Grant was elected on his personal popularity, or because of his illustrious warlike fame, is to state the case most unfairly, not only for him as President,

but for the millions of honest and patriotic men who cast their votes for him as the representative of the principles for which their kindred had perished. It must not be forgotten that General Grant, with all the serious candor of his pure character, accepted the declaration of principles made at Chicago, when he accepted his nomination, and from the beginning to the end of the canvass he stood silently but firmly by the faith of his party. He is not a man to forget obligations even tacitly assumed. To his mind a step taken, or a deed done, has all the force of a profession in words, and carries with it a moral covenant from which he has no power and no wish to escape. We conceive that the principles of the Republican Party are those which most commend themselves to the integrity of such a mind as General Grant's. These principles must be endowed with the immortality of truth itself. They have resisted every human agency that has arisen to overthrow them. We could weary you with enumerating the perils through which, at one time or another, the creed of republicanism has passed. Injudicious friends, passionate counsellors, unwise measures, halting and insufficient legislation, financial embarrassments, monetary panics, high prices, high taxes, the unpopular rigor of military rule—these things have been urged against us with unscrupulous cunning by our political enemies; and in addition, the ungrateful traitor, who will shortly retire with no regret but his own, has through four long years used the immense influence

of his power and patronage solely to disorganize the party which elected him to office ; and yet the principles for which Lincoln yielded up his earthly life, seem to be as enduring as the soul of their faithful martyr. To-day the Republican Party stands before the world in fuller strength of numbers, with as enthusiastic a confidence in itself, as firm a faith in its future, and as evident a prospect of endurance, as at any point in its grand career. Who shall say what destiny may be reserved for it with its present hold upon the people's affections, its irresistible majority in Congress, and a harmonious administration to wield its executive functions, or to what heights of glory it may not advance our beloved land among the nations of the earth !

The present year has been made memorable to us by the reception given to one whom we all revere, and who on that occasion crossed our threshold for the first time—to the late Secretary of War, the Honorable Edwin M. Stanton. He came among us suffering from his gigantic labors, a living testimony of the prodigious history through which he had lived, and through which he had carried his grateful country ; and yet he came cheerfully, glad to testify, in any manner that he might, his fidelity to the cause which we represent. The sacrifice which he made for us of his personal comfort was evident to all who had known him amid the cares of the War Office, when he everywhere impressed upon the terrible struggle of our day the broad mark of his vigor-

ous personality. We felt it to be a privilege to press in our own the strong hand that had pointed the paths of armies, to hear the voice that had been the wisest in his country's councils ; knowing, as we did, that the hand was unstained by the millions that it had distributed, and that the voice had never been raised but on the side of right. May time soon restore to him his accustomed health and energy ; so that his large intellectual powers may again be employed for the national benefit in the cabinet conferences of the new administration ! It is no breach of propriety now to say that amidst the severe distractions of his duties, when the war was at its height, Mr. Stanton watched the movements of our association with careful interest, that any suggestion from the officers of the League was listened to with profound respect, and that he, without question, used the whole power of his office to carry out our patriotic plans.

The late visit of the President elect to the League House was intentionally of so private a character, and his reception of our members was so strictly confined to our own body, that a public mention of the occasion may seem to be a step beyond rigid propriety. That event is, however, too marked a one in the annals of the League to be passed over in silence. It may be enough to say that General Grant was pleased with his visit, that he cheerfully acquiesced in every movement which was made in his behalf, that he again and again acknowledged the services which the League had done him, and

that when he parted from us, it was as the parting of old and well-tried friends.

At a meeting of the League, held on the twenty-sixth day of August, the usual Committee of Fifty was appointed to conduct our affairs in the approaching political contest. Our thanks are due to the members of the Committee for the arduous labors performed by them throughout the struggle. We have all been witnesses of the manner in which our share in the canvass was conducted, and of the result of our efforts as exhibited on the third day of November. The loss to us of the City in October, through a system of frauds hitherto unapproached in the political history of our State, caused no dismay to your Committee; but rather stimulated them to the further exertion which seemed to be necessary in order to carry the Presidential election. These frauds, and the manner of their performance, are now before our eyes; and the wretched moral spectacle exhibited by our opponents, should impress upon all good citizens, of whatever political faith, the necessity of restraining the wrong doers, as other criminals are restrained, by the power of the law. We should urge upon our legislators the immediate importance of passing a proper Constitutional Registry Law, of imposing the legal penalty of perjury upon the officers of elections who may violate their oaths, and of so amending the enactments relating to the naturalization of foreigners, that the responsibility of the act may rest upon some

high official, and that so grave a duty as that of conferring the rights of citizenship, may not be loosely performed by the subordinate officers of our Courts. Whatever may be the result of the cases of contested elections now pending, the evidence of fraud is conclusive by the simplest arithmetical computations, and this fact should be sufficient to cause us to demand such legislation as may make the perpetration of like frauds impossible for the future.

We return thanks to the State Central Committee for their hearty co-operation with our Committee of Fifty in the joint work which was deputed to them. The Chairman of the State Central Committee has been unsparing in his commendation of your Committee's zeal and services; and on the other hand, we say to that gentleman that never have relations between two political organizations been more agreeable and trustful than our relations with him and the members of his Committee.

The awards for the Prize Essays on the legal organization of the people to select candidates for office, have been made during the current year. The prizes were adjudged according to the order of merit and usefulness displayed in the essays. Although the essays have opened no royal road towards a solution of the difficult subject, they have thrown much light, both historical and theoretical, upon the path of the future explorer, and we commend them in their printed form to the careful consideration of political thinkers.

The Report of the Board of Publication displays an activity in that department hitherto unequalled. Since the date of the last report, there have been distributed throughout the State, one million four hundred and sixteen thousand nine hundred and six printed documents. The amount of matter thus circulated appears enormous even to us who are accustomed to the large figures of the Board, and induces us to believe that the system by which this vast distribution was made, must be one approaching to perfection. It is with deep regret that we announce the fact that the Chairman of the Board of Publication is about to retire, not only from the chairmanship of the Board of Publication, but from the office of Director of the League. It would not be becoming in us to eulogize the services of a member of our own body, however deserving of public praise; and we therefore confide the merits of our associate to the feelings of our fellow members, assured that they will sympathize with us in the irreparable loss which his absence will be to our future counsels and labors.

The Library Committee report few additions to our literary stock during the present year; but in accordance with a resolution passed at the last annual meeting of the League, the Board of Directors have made an appropriation of two thousand dollars for the purchase of books. This sum the Committee is now expending in laying the foundation of a library, by gathering upon our shelves those books of reference which are of the first im-

portance in well ordered collections ; so that early in the coming year our library will be something more than a mere heterogenous assemblage of volumes. As this appropriation to the library will probably be made from year to year, our members may yet have within their walls a selection of works in which they may feel just pride.

The Report of the Committee on Membership states that since the date of the last report they have submitted to the Board of Directors the names of one hundred and ninety-one candidates for membership of the League, and that twenty-six names are now upon the Book of Candidates awaiting the action of the Committee at their next stated meeting. The Committee strongly advise that in all cases in which members of the League register the names of their friends upon the Book of Candidates, they will also represent their candidate's claims for membership to one or more of the Committee. The omission to perform this necessary duty, has postponed the election of many worthy candidates, simply from the want of proper information in the Committee, and has given rise to much unpleasant comment and needless ill feeling.

On the first day of December, 1868, the roll of the League bore the names of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five members. Of this number one hundred and seventy-six were elected during the year. We have lost, during the same period, twenty-six members by

death, seventy-seven by resignation, one was dropped from the roll, and one hundred and twelve were suspended for the non-payment of their annual dues. This statement shows a falling off of forty in our numbers since the date of our last Annual Report. We have always urged upon our members the duty which each one owes to the Association to increase our numbers by every proper means, and we repeat the recommendation with the assurance that the League might double its present membership without overcrowding the spacious accommodations of our house.

The Reports of the Treasurer and of the Auditors for the present year are before the meeting for inspection. The income of the League for the year ending December first, 1868, was fifty-three thousand five hundred and eighty-six dollars and sixty cents, which, together with the surplus of the preceding year, amounted to fifty-nine thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight dollars and eighty-nine cents. The disbursements for the same period were forty-one thousand nine hundred and nine dollars and eleven cents, leaving a surplus, after deducting the two thousand dollars appropriated to the Library, of fifteen thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine dollars and seventy-eight cents. There are no outstanding bills to decrease this surplus. In view of our prosperous financial condition, the Board of Directors have fixed the annual tax for the coming year at twenty-five dollars.

Looking towards the future, everything seems fair for our Association, and for the great Union Party which

we represent. Our political opponents, marshalled by the same captains that led the armies of the rebellion, professing the same destructive principles that animated their hearts through that luckless struggle, as warm in their animosity to the Union as when they stood steel to steel with us upon the battle-field, worshipers of the same idols, utterers of the same party-shouts, whose platform was prepared, whose candidates were chosen for them by their former Southern masters, with all their old arrogance, rancor and faith in worn-out falsehoods, narrow-minded political bigots who neither learn from the present nor forget the past—these men, with all the strength which they could muster into their ranks from ignorance, vice, and the prejudices of race, were as thoroughly beaten and humiliated in their last struggle at the ballot-box, as they were when, in kindred spirit, and for the same declared purpose, they simultaneously fought at Gettysburg and rioted in New York. They will never again dare to array themselves before the American people with a like declaration of principles and of policy, with like candidates, or the same set of party leaders. Hereafter it will not do to show the bloody hand of the Southern traitor in any party that proposes to ask the suffrage of loyal men. They must choose another line of approach to popular favor; and they know it. Perhaps they will array themselves in our old uniform, and claim to be the men who were truly loyal during the war; or strive to take a step beyond us in our own path, and clamor for negro suff-

rage in the North with the same vehemence that awhile ago they clamored for negro slavery in the South. Nothing is too impudent for this audacious party, provided thereby it may creep into political power, and once more distribute the Government offices, and finger the tenacious public gold. We who remember shall smile when that time comes—we who have always claimed to be patriots rather than politicians; for it will be the hour of our supreme triumph and of the vindication of those principles which we have supported and shall support to the end. Meanwhile, as this good work of political conversion is advancing, let us pursue our way, and carry out to their logical conclusions, those great moral issues which have heretofore given strength, vitality, and wonderful recuperative power to our party before the people. Let us give a generous and confiding support to the administration about to be formed for the general good, and sustain with our encouraging voices the first step in public affairs that may be made by our illustrious chief. In him we have honesty, capability, purity of heart, singleness of purpose, and a will that nothing but rational truth can bend. Let us see these high qualities through all his actions, and trust him and be trusted by him; so that our ideas of policy and his execution of the popular will may be as one and indivisible.

By order of the Board of Directors.

GEORGE H. BOKER,

Secretary.

APPENDIX.

PHILADELPHIA, *December 1, 1868.*

To the Union League of Philadelphia :

GENTLEMEN :—The undersigned, auditors appointed by the Board of Directors of the League, beg leave to report, that they have examined the accounts of the Treasurer to the 1st inst., compared them with the vouchers, and found them to be correct. They present in the aggregate the following figures :

Balance from last year, being cash in bank on December 1, 1867,	\$6,202 29
Entrance fee from 6 members for 1867, at \$25,	\$150 00
Annual tax from 15 members for 1867, at \$35,	525 00
Annual tax from 6 members for 1867, at \$17 50,	105 00
Entrance fee from 170 members for 1868, at \$25,	4,250 00
Annual tax from 1705 members for 1868, at \$25,	42,625 00
Annual tax from 100 members for 1868, at \$12 50,	1,250 00
Annual tax from 5 members for 1869, at \$25,	125 00
	<hr/>
	\$49,030 00
From Billiards,	4,556 60
	<hr/>
	\$59,788 89

Amount Forward, \$59,788 89

EXPENDITURES.

House and Lot on Moravian Street, . . .	\$72 80	
Int. on Bonds and Ground Rent, \$7,260 00		
Less Interest received on Loans, 1,323 79		
	<hr/>	5,936 21
Trustees of Sinking Fund,	2,000 00	
Household Effects,	437 49	
Deposit for Permanent Insurances, . . .	303 08	
Expenses,	33,159 53	41,909 11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance,		\$17,879 78
In \$10,000 U. S. Bonds, costing, . . .	\$10,718 75	
In \$6000 Loan on Call, at 6 per cent., . .	6,000 00	
Cash in Bank,	1,161 03	
	<hr/>	\$17,879 78

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WARD B. HASELTINE,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
E. C. KNIGHT,	
AUGUSTUS HEATON,	

W. Harrison Eisenbrey,

Philadelphia.